The Exciter

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DX NOTES

Early summer has brought some unusually fine band conditions, and with it rare DX. It hardly seems possible, but in this year with an average sunspot number of only 15 (compared with the 1958 peak of 260) we have had days when 20 meters was open 24 hours, short and long path, to all parts of the world. 15 meters was open similarly about 18 hours of the day, and even 10 meters was open much of the day. This happened almost daily during the first 2 weeks of May, for example. This points out the fact that even though the average or "smoothed" sunspot number is very low, there can be days and even weeks in these "dead" years when DX comes rolling through.

Another point worth noting is that trans-equatorial (north-south) path DX MUF's (maximum or highest usable frequencies) daily rise above 30 Mcs. even during the depths of the sunspot cycle. This trans-equatorial MUF often reaches above 50 Mcs. on days when East-West path MUF's may be as lo as 10 Mcs. So there's plenty of DX to be worked these days, even on the higher frequencies. A CQ D with your beam to the South may produce surprising results on an otherwise dead band.

Your DX Editor reached a DX milestone in May with a QSO with IS1ZUI in Sardinia for country #300. Meanwhile, Roddy, K5BGB, was finding time between college courses to snare #298, and Gene, W5EJT, passed #250. Bob, W5UX, continues to lead the area with over 305 countries worked.

Meanwhile, back on the bands, Gus-W4BPD, continues to stir up activity from rare and exotic places. After putting Tromelin (FR7ZC/T) and Europa (FR7ZC/E) on the DX map, Gus paid a return visit to the Comoros (5R8CE/FH8) much to the gratitude of W-DX'ers. His Royal Highness Gus I (King of the DX-peditioners-or as some say King of MOO) is now resting in Kenya at VQ4ERR while planning a new DX-pedition to French Somililand (FL9) and Yemen (4W1). If you are not familiar with Gus' operating habits, look for a big pile-up calling him on 14030 or 7005 (CW) or 14250-270 (SSB). Then if the pile-up is there look for Gus on 14035 or 7001 (CW) or 14110-14130 (SSB). He will be working fast break-in and will from time-to-time announce where he is listening. His deep South drawl is unmistakable on phone. QSL's via W4ECI for all of Gus' stops. So give him a try, and good hunting!

73 & DX
Len, W5LGG

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40 METERS

Foreign broadcasts continue to usurp most of the band, however, at times conditions have been pretty good. Some DX has been showing up. The author worked ZS6AOW, Johannesburg, South Africa and HP3FL. Heard some JA's, VP9 and VK's on the band but did not get a chance to work them.

The Club Station W5SC has been on 40 meters quite consistently. Better get busy on your certificate requirements.

The following local stations were heard on 40 recently; WA5BUL, W5FGV, K5HHF, W5LNZ, K9YKO/5, W5WXT, WA5BXG, WA5DCP, K5UXY, W4CHK/5, WA5BFJ, K5ABN, K5YJH, K1NFX/5, K5YJV, W5SQR, WA5DFO, K5DNE, W5EWV, K5GHG, W5AJT, W5CRI, K5ASB, W5HKD, K5DMK/mobile around town and K5UMG/M working in from Lowry AFB.

Received a nice card from an "old-time Ex-member of the S.A. Radio Club". We quote "I am active on 40CW Only running 900 W. input to a B & W Linear driven by an Elmac AF-67. I have been livin in Rockport now for nearly 8 years and expect to spend my remaining years here. Am in process of

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rigging up emergency primary source of power using a gasoline engine turning a 115 V 800 cycle generator which also generates 26 V DC. and could run surplus gear off that if need be. I took off for higher ground when Carla headed this way, but hope to stick it out here if another comes along and try to keep a rig on the air. 73 to all there who might remember me. Joe V. Wright, W5AQN." We really appreciate hearing from Joe and know that many of his friends in San Antonio will be happy to hear from him. Let's hear from a few others.

73, Aubrey- K5MOF

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WITH THE BEXAR COUNTY AREC

We visited with the Amateurs in the Crystal City, Carrizo Springs area on an outing near the Nueces River. Set up a rig and operated just like Field Day. Don, WA5CGS is now a member of the Dist 7 HWN, replacing Bill K5HUS who is attending school in Nacagdoches.

George, W5VPQ, is now heading the Disaster Survey Team for the Bexar County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Team members are being selected from the 6 meter AREC Net. Function of the team is to furnish communications and report to the Disaster Committee Chairman what is needed at the site of any disaster in the way of Food, Clothing, Shelter, Medical Care and Transportation. Members will be briefed and instructed in responsibilities and policies at a short course of instruction at the Red Cross Chapter House. A Simulated Emergency Test is planned later to combine the AREC and various Red Cross Committees in one Test.

Our Hurricane season is due shortly and now is the time to shore-up the antenna and check out your emergency generator or power supply. Now is also the time to learn what ARL 12, QSL, QRU, and

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See Fred K5ENK

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QRV mean so as not to filibuster on a Net during an emergency. If you are not adept at handling traffic take a look through ARRL Publication No. 4, Operating An Amateur Radio Station. We often think we know but when the time comes we find out that we have forgotten.

Leonard, K5IEG has just recently built a new shack. Haven't seen it yet, but understand it is a real complete one. Lets hear from you Leonard.

Famous last words: "I'm going to give up Amateur Radio". That's what Gene, W5EJT said after contacting a bunch of DX stations out in Wilson County operating portable with a KWM-1 and a Home-brew 20 meter vertical on 20 CW. With all the elaborate gear he's got at home he's squawking yet.

73

Lee K5HZR
Emergency Coordinator
San Antonio/Bexar County

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FOR SALE

2000V 300ma Power Supply, $45.00. Prop pitch motor, converted, with selsyns, $25.00.

W4EJT - DI 2-2225.

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GUTTER DOPE

Chuck, K5AIU, wants to know if the HT-37 is the most popular transmitter. Says that almost everyone he contacts is using one. He also reports that the HQ 170 seems to be the most widely used receiver. Guess its because they are both fine pieces of gear.

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Chuck also wonders if anyone has an explanation as to why there are "dead" spots on some bands. For example, 20 will be wild, but between 14.280 and 14.290 its like the antenna is unpluged.

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Bert, K5HVC, soon to put a potent SSB signal on 6 meters with an HX-50 and a P&H 150-6 (what, no kilowatt?).

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Many local hams enjoying the fine West Gulf ARRL Convention in McAllen. About midnight Friday, after the pre-convention party which featured "Border Buttermilk", it looked like Mexico had been invaded. There were more hams south of the Rio than there were north of it. The Magic Valley Radio Club did a wonderful job this year and we congratulate them.

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While speaking of the Convention, we are pleased to announce that the pre-registration prize, an NCX-3 (National new jewel), was won by Dean, W5BGE .. The San Antonio hams really cheered when his number was called. Several other local hams were lucky and received some nice gifts.

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SUMMERTIME! MOBILETIME! ANTENNATIME!

Now is the time to go mobile. We have Hallicrafters SR 150 Transceiver; Collins KWM-2, KWM-2A; National NCX-3; Drake TR-3; Swan (soon).
Put up a new tower before it gets hot. Jontz towers, Cushcraft, Hy-Gain, Mosley beams & CDRotors.

NEW DIRECT HAM PHONE CA 7-7505
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Don K5UGD Joe K5WQZ Jerry K5AXN Marion W5DBN Leonard WA5EFA Mark WA5GSW

The Convention for 1964 will be held in Brownwood, Texas. Start planning to attend now.

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The Chastains (K5OPS & K5GUH now WØEHC) have been transferred to Austin and will most likely be visiting their many friends in S.A.

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Another former San Antonioian, Bob Clark, W5OIK, and his family is also a resident of Austin.

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Kim, K5TGA, writes from Germany. Says he misses his friends in San Antonio. He is waiting to get his ticket for operation there.

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The Alamo YL's and a few members of the SARC put Wilson County on the air on 19 May. During the afternoon they were there they made over 100 contacts. Twenty-five QSL's have been received and club cards mailed out.

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Charles Frost, K5LBU, is preparing to become a schoolboy again. Charles will attend A & M and is one of the first enrollees in the new Electronics School that has been established. We send him our best wishes.

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If you would like more info on the new school at A & M we suggest you write to the college. This is a wonderful opportunity for the young man (or woman now) to receive the training that industry is looking for.

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SOUND EQUIPMENT

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